Labour Policy

†*178. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have declared Labour Policy under the pressure of foreign investors;

(b) if so, the extent to which Government would protect interests of the labourers;

(c) whehter Government are inviting investment only in those companies which are making profit;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the labourers engaged in small industries and factories would be exploited due to this policy; and

(e) if so, whether Government would reconsider to change the policy in view of interests of labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) Government has not declared any labour policy under the pressure of foreign investors. However, a need has been felt in the recent past to review/update the various labour laws. The amendments to certain labour laws have become necessary in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy for higher productivity, competitiveness, higher level of investments including foreign investment and employment generation.

In so far as foreign direct investment is concerned, Government do not discriminate between loss and profit making companies.

Government is taking all necessary steps to safeguard the legitimate interests of workers in various sectors including small industries and factories in the labour reforms process.

Release of rice under Food for Work Programme in A.P.

*179. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice released by the Centre for the 'Food for Work Programme' in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether the State Government has sought more rice from the Centre; and

(c) if so, by when the additional quota would be released?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) 16.50 lakh tonnes of rice has been allocated, free of cost, to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Food for Work Programme during the year 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) A proposal for further allocation of 5.00 lakh tonnes of rice under the Food for Work Programme has received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The proposal is under consideration.

Filling up of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs

*180. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs remain unfilled in various Ministries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Some vacancies including vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes remain unfilled in various Ministries/Departments at any point of time.

(b) Information is not maintained centrally.

(c) In order to fill up vacancies reserved for SCs and STs, various relaxations and concessions are given. In case of direct recruitment,